

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the final Office action dated January 9, 2008, setting forth a shortened three-month statutory deadline for reply expiring on April 9, 2008. This Amendment and Response is filed on February 28, 2008; thus, no petitions and fees for an extension of time are required. Since this Amendment and Response is filed within two months of the mailing date of the Office action, the Assignee respectfully requests issuance of an Advisory Action. Further, the Assignee believes that the amendments to this application place it into a condition for allowance.

The Assignee thanks the Examiner for reviewing this application and issuing an Office action.

Claims 1-3 and 7-24 are pending in this application with claims 1, 9, 13, 17 and 19 being independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 8, 12 and 22 are amended, and claims 1, 7, 9-11, and 15-16 are cancelled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 2, 3, 8, 12-14 and 17-24 will remain pending with claims 12, 13, 17 and 19 being independent claims.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Assignee thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 13, 14 and 17-24 are allowed. The Assignee also thanks the Examiner for indicating that 12 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 is rewritten into independent form to incorporate all limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 7 and 11. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully submits that the objection to claim 12 is overcome and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection and allow it.

II. Claim Rejections Under § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,742,286 to Giovale in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,910,883 to Zock, Jr. For at least the following reasons, the Assignee disagrees with these rejections.

Although the Assignee disagrees with the rejections of claims 1, 7, 9-11 and 15-16, the Assignee has cancelled these claims to expedite issuance of claims indicated as allowable. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims are moot.

Claims 2, 3, and 8 are amended to depend from independent claim 12. Claim 8 is also amended to clarify that the titanium bottom defines a portion of the recited "volume" since a titanium bottom and a carbon bottom are recited in claim 12. This amendment of adding "titanium" before "bottom" in claim 8 does not narrow the scope of claim 8 since the "bottom" that was recited in claim 8 as originally filed clearly referred to the "titanium bottom" recited in now cancelled claim 1.

As discussed in more detail in Section I, claim 12, as amended, is allowable over the cited references. Since claims 2, 3 and 8 each depend from a patentably distinct independent claim, these claims are themselves patentable. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw her rejections and allow these claims. The Assignee makes this statement without reference to or waiving the independent bases of patentability within the dependent claims.

III. Conclusion

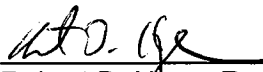
After entry of the above remarks and amendments, claims 2, 3, 8, 12-14 and 17-24 remain in the application. In accordance with the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the Assignee respectfully submits the application and all claims are in condition for allowance, and requests such prompt allowance.

The Assignee believes no fees or petitions are required. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this as authorization therefor and please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 04-1415.

Should any issues remain that the Examiner believes may be dealt with in a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (303) 629-3400.

Dated: February 28, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



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